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10-20-2021

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# Nursing student Jasmine Thomas receives \$15K fellowship

October 20, 2021



*Jasmine Thomas*

Jasmine Thomas, a second-year graduate student at Georgia Southern University, has received \$15,000 from the National Advisory Committee of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Minority Fellowship Program.

Thomas, who is pursuing her master's degree in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) specialty track of the Post-Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice program, plans to use the stipend toward living expenses.

"This money will impact me by alleviating the strain of my school-work-life balance," stated the Atlanta, Georgia, native. "It will provide me the opportunity to free up time to focus more on my studies."

Additionally, Thomas is participating in the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) program. The BHWET program aims to develop and expand the behavioral health workforce and will increase the number of providers prepared to deliver team-based psychiatric and mental health services to rural and medically underserved populations in South Georgia.

After completing her master's degree, Thomas plans to obtain employment as a PMHNP to gain experience before returning to school to earn a doctoral degree.

To be eligible for the fellowship, individuals must be enrolled full time in an accredited psychiatric mental health nursing program with a focus on mental health or substance use disorders, prevention or treatment and be an active member of the American Nurses Association. Additionally, during the fellowship, Thomas will be required to attend a series of mandatory education activities and is encouraged to participate in and contribute to ethnic minority organizations of her choice.

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# RiteCare Center at Georgia Southern University receives grant to increase training, resources for clients with Parkinson's disease

October 20, 2021



The RiteCare Center for Communication Disorders at Georgia Southern University has been named a recipient of the 2021 SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® Grant Program. The grant is awarded annually by the Parkinson Voice Project with the goal to make quality speech treatment accessible to people with Parkinson's disease across the globe.

With the grant, the center will receive free SPEAK OUT! & LOUD Crowd training as well as teletherapy training for their speech-language pathologists and graduate students in Georgia Southern's Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate program. Additionally, the center will receive speech therapy supplies and funding for their LOUD Crowd groups.

"The grant from the Parkinson's Voice Project has been significant in improving the student clinicians' knowledge of Parkinson's disease," stated Tory Candea, clinic coordinator for the RiteCare Center. "Further, the grant has allowed the RiteCare Center to become an invaluable resource for members of the community impacted by Parkinson's disease."

The Parkinson Voice Project is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the world solely dedicated to helping individuals with Parkinson's disease improve their speech and swallowing. More than 3,500 speech-language pathologists have been trained through the organization's SPEAK OUT! & LOUD Crowd Program.

For more information on the RiteCare Center's SPEAK OUT! & LOUD Crowd program, [click here](#).

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## Disc golf course coming to Georgia Southern's Armstrong Campus

October 20, 2021



An idea inspired by social distancing during the pandemic is coming to fruition with the installation of a disc golf course on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah. Opening later this year, the new disc golf course will consist of nine holes that can be played from multiple tee spots to provide an 18-hole course experience.

Sean Willett, assistant director of Intramurals and Club Sports on the Armstrong

Campus, proposed the project as he considered new activities to offer students while indoor recreation was infeasible due to COVID-19 precautions. He was excited by the overwhelming encouragement he received for this project.

“We’re super excited for it,” Willett said. “We were very fortunate to have the support of basically any and everyone that we talked to. We’ve already been spreading the word organically around and I know a lot of students are super stoked for it.”

The course, managed by Campus Recreation and Intramurals (CRI), will be open to students, faculty, staff and the general public from sunrise to sunset every day, and those with an Eagle ID can check out equipment from the Armstrong Recreation Center (ARC). There is no cost to play.

Matthew Mahoney, a junior psychology major who recently moved to Savannah, is thrilled to see a disc golf course come to one of Georgia Southern's campuses.

"It's literally a frisbee throw away to go from class to the course, so it's pretty awesome," Mahoney said. "Just being able to leave class and go decompress on the course will be great. It will also be a good chance to connect with more college students in the disc golf community."

Mahoney was introduced to disc golf by friends and believes the sport can be enjoyed by anyone.

"It's always a really good time," Mahoney said. "It's as competitive or casual as you want it to be. It can literally just be a hike through the woods with friends, or you can really focus on honing your skills. So I think it's a great activity for anyone to get involved in."

Willett and his team are working with Adrenaline Heaven Sports and DiscGolfPark to create the course, which will be located behind the intramural fields in the wooded area near the Tennis Complex. Willett and his team hope this course will open the door to new activities for students, as well as provide them with an opportunity to take a break from their busy schedules.

"We really wanted to be able to offer a course where any student who wanted to jump out there could," Willett said. "The woods are very serene, so it gives you time to get away from things, de-stress and relax. We want students to go out there, have a good time and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere."

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